REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.136(a) and 1.17(a)(2), it is respectfully requested that the period for reply to the January 22, 2002 Office Action be extended two months, i.e., up to and including June 24, 2002 (as June 22nd is a Saturday). A check in the amount of $200.00 is enclosed to cover the extension fee. Any additionally required fee or overpayment in any fee occasioned by this paper may be charged or credited to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

AMENDMENT

Kindly amend the application, without prejudice, as follows:

IN THE TITLE:

On page 1, line 1, kindly amend the title, without prejudice, to read as follows:

Analytical Detection of *Staphylococcus aureus*.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Kindly include the Abstract as recited in the attached, separate sheet.

IN THE SEQUENCE LISTING:

Kindly delete SEQ ID. NOS. 13, 14, 15 and 19, without prejudice.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 3-14 and 24-51, without prejudice and reserving the right to pursue cancelled subject matter in a continuing or divisional application.

Please add new claims 52-69, without prejudice, to read as follows:

52. A kit for the analytical detection of *Staphylococcus aureus*, comprising more than one nucleic acid molecule primer and/or probe, wherein at least one of said nucleic acid molecule primer and/or probe is adapted to selectively hybridize to RNA or DNA of *Staphylococcus aureus* and is comprised of at least 10 successive nucleotides of the region

comprising nucleotide position 54 to 83 of SEQ ID. NO. 1, nucleotide position 100 to 166 of SEQ ID. NO. 1, or sequences complementary thereof.

53. A kit for the analytical detection of the presence or absence of *Staphylococcus aureus*, comprising more than one nucleic acid molecule primer and/or probe, wherein at least one of said nucleic acid molecule primer and/or probe is adapted to selectively hybridize and/or amplify with RNA or DNA of *Staphylococcus aureus* and is adapted to distinguish between bacteria to be detected and bacteria not to be detected by a differing nucleic acid sequence in at least one base position in SEQ ID NO. 1, or the complementary sequence thereof, in the genomic DNA and/or RNA of said bacteria to be detected and said bacteria that are not to be detected.

54. A kit for the analytical detection of the presence or absence of *Staphylococcus aureus*, comprising more than one nucleic acid molecule primer and/or probe, wherein at least one of said nucleic acid molecule primer and/or probe is adapted to selectively hybridize and/or amplify with RNA or DNA of *Staphylococcus aureus* and is adapted to distinguish between bacteria to be detected and bacteria not to be detected by a differing nucleic acid sequence in at least one base position in the region comprising nucleotide position 54 to 83 of SEQ ID. NO. 1, nucleotide position 100 to 166 of SEQ ID. NO. 1, or sequences complementary thereof, in the genomic DNA and/or RNA of said bacteria to be detected and said bacteria that are not to be detected.

55. The kit according to claim 54, wherein said nucleic acid molecule primer and/or probe comprises SEQ ID NO. 1 or the complementary sequence thereof.

56. The kit according to claim 55, wherein the sequence of said nucleic acid molecule primer and/or probe is selected from the group consisting of nucleotide positions 54 to 83 of SEQ ID NO. 1, nucleotide positions 100 to 166 of SEQ ID NO. 1, and complementary sequences thereof.

57. The kit according to claim 55, wherein the sequence of said nucleic acid molecule primer and/or probe is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO. 2, SEQ ID NO. 3, SEQ ID NO. 4, and complementary sequences thereof.

58. The kit according to claim 52, wherein at least 10 successive nucleotides of the sequence of said nucleic acid molecule primer and/or probe is identical to the nucleic acid primer and/or probe of claim 52, or corresponds in 9 out of 10 successive nucleotides of the sequence of said nucleic acid primer and/or probe of claim 52, or corresponds in 8 out of 10 successive nucleotides of the sequence of said nucleic acid primer and/or probe of claim 52, or is at least 90% homologous to the sequence of said nucleic acid primer and/or probe of claim 52

59. The kit according to claim 52, wherein said nucleic acid molecule primer and/or probe is single stranded or double stranded.

60. The kit according to claim 52, wherein said nucleic acid molecule primer and/or probe is DNA, RNA corresponding to said DNA, or PNA.

61. The kit according to claim 52, wherein said nucleic acid molecule primer and/or probe comprises one or more radioactive groups, colored groups, fluorescent groups, groups for

immobilization on a solid phase and/or groups for an indirect or direct reaction, and combinations thereof.

62. The kit according to claim 61, wherein said indirect reaction is an enzymatic reaction.

63. The kit according to claim 62, wherein said enzymatic reaction utilizes antibodies, antigens, enzymes and/or substances having an affinity for enzymes or enzyme complexes.

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64. The kit according to claim 52, wherein 10% of the sequence of said nucleic acid molecule primer and/or probe is replaced with analogous nucleotides.

65. The kit according to claim 64, wherein 1 or 2 nucleotides of said nucleic acid molecule primer and/or probe is replaced with analogous nucleotides.

66. The kit according to claim 64, wherein said analogous nucleotides are not naturally occurring in bacteria.

67. A nucleic acid molecule primer and/or probe, comprising SEQ ID NO. 1 or a complementary sequence thereof.

68. A nucleic acid molecule primer and/or probe, comprising nucleotide positions 54 to 83 of SEQ ID NO. 1, nucleotide positions 100 to 166 of SEQ ID NO. 1 or sequences complementary thereof.

69. A nucleic acid molecule primer and/or probe, having a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO. 3, SEQ ID NO. 4, SEQ ID NO. 5 and sequences complementary thereof. --